

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4670

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4813

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR TU

SUBJ: OPIUM BAN: REUTER'S STORY

REF: A) STATE 128835 B) STATE 128836

1. WE AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO APPROACH GOT REGARDING INTERPRETATION OF LAW GOVERNING POPPY PLANTING (REF B). BASED ON CONSULTATIONS WITH USAID TURKISH LAWYER, HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING POINTS SEEM PERTINENT IN CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S FLEXIBILITY IN THE TIMING OF FUTURE DECREES DEALING WITH POPPY PRODUCTION.

A. WITH RESPECT TO THE ERIM DECREE OF JUNE 29, 1971 WHICH REFERS TO A ONE-YEAR NOTIFICATION PERIOD, TURKISH LAWYER BELIEVES THIS PROVISION WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO RESTRICT THE GOT IF THEY WISH TO AUTHORIZE RENEWED PLANTING THIS FALL. THE JUNE 1972 DECREE WOULD HAVE REQUIRED SUBSEQUENT PARLIAMENTARY ACTION, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEEK, IN ORDER TO HAVE

BECOME PERMANENTLY EFFECTIVE.

B. THERE IS ALSO A REFERENCE IN THE DECREE TO A JULY 1 DATE FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION IN ORDER TO PERMIT PLANTING OR LIMIT
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PLANTING. ACCORDING TO AID COUNSEL, THIS MAY, AS A PRACTICAL

MATTER, BE THE LAST DATE ON WHICH THE SOILS PRODUCT OFFICE (TMO) CAN SET UP THE NECESSARY MACHINERY BOTH FOR LICENSING PLANTING AND ARRANGING FOR PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS. THUS, JULY 1 PRESENTS A REALISTIC DEADLINE IN TERMS OF WORKLOAD, THOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME SLIPPAGE IN TERMS OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

C. IN SUMMARY, WHILE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE LEGALLY BOUND BY THE JULY 1 DEADLINE, IF IT WISHES TO SET UP SOME KIND OF CONTROL SYSTEM FOR FALL PLANTING, IT WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO ACT SOON.

2. REGARDING LOCAL PRESS REPORTS RE ARREST OF FARMERS FOR DEFYING BAN, TURKISH JANDARMA CONFIRMS THAT ILLICIT POPPY FIELDS (TOTALLING 97,443 SQUARE METERS) HAVE BEEN BURNED DURING PAST MONTH. THIS INVOLVED FOUR VILLAGES IN THREE SEPARATE PROVINCES (MARAS, CORUM AND AMASYS). 134 PERSONS WERE IMPLICATED, AND 13 ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE. OTHER CASES ARE STILL UNDER REVIEW. CONVICTION CARRIES A POSSIBLE THREE-SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.

3. AFTER THE ABOVE FIGURES WERE COMPILED, JUNE 19 PRESS REPORTS THAT SIX MORE PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN BURDUR PROVINCE FOR ILLICIT PLANTING OF POPPIES.

MACOMBER

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